13th August 1956]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, it is not a question of policy, it is a question of programme and this Government are not opposed to that programme.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Suppose a powerloom is introduced about 20 handloom weavers will have no employment. They will be unemployed. Since the output from a powerloom is said to be 150 yards a day and that from an ordinary handloom is only 6 yards, 20 weavers will have to face unemployment. Considering this fact and the fact that the Handloom Board is also opposed to this, will the Government take steps in the matter so that the interests of the ordinary handloom weavers are not affected?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Whatever may be the programme undertaken by the Government of India, this Government have given, more than once, a categorical assurance that on account of this programme or any policy pursued by the Government, not one handloom weaver would be affected, not one pie of the wages of the handloom weaver would be affected. The Government undertakes to see that the handloom weaver is not affected in any way. I may also tell the hon. Member that according to the claims made by the leaders of the handloom weavers, there are 5·6 lakhs of handlooms in this State. According to the statistics available with regard to handlooms in the co-operative societies, there are 157,000 handlooms under the co-operative societies. So far as the programme relating to this State is concerned, the proposal is to introduce power for reasons which have been explained and which I will explain in detail at the proper time when there is sufficient time. The proposal is to have about 3,000 powerlooms introduced in this year, and it is proposed to introduce another 3,000 or so next year. Thus, it will be seen that there will be only 6,000 to 7,000 powerlooms out of the 5·6 lakhs of looms as claimed by the leaders of handloom weavers.

SRI K. R. NALLASIVAM : கைத்தறிக்குப் பதிலாக விசைத் தறியைப் 9-20 a.m.
புகுத்துவதன் மூலமாக வேலையில்லாத் திண்டாட்டம் ஏற்படுமென்று நெசவாளர்கள் பீதி அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி அவர்களுக்கு வேலையில்லாத் திண்டாட்டம் ஏற்படாமலிருப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் உத்திரவாதம் கொடுக்கின்றார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : சர்க்கார் உத்திரவாதம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொன்னேன். அதோடு கைத்தறியாளர்களிடம் நேரிடையாகச் சென்று அவர்களிடையே உள்ள பீதியைப் போக்குவதற்கு சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

Sale of handloom cloth in foreign countries

* 70 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to increase the sale of handloom cloth in foreign countries during the year 1956?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The export of handloom cloth for sale in foreign countries is not the primary concern

[13th August 1956

of the State Government. A scheme formulated by the Government of India for the purpose is in operation and the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society are the agents of the Government of India in the matter. The scheme has been in progress since February 1954.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Sir, I find from the newspapers that handloom goods worth Rs. 76 lakhs have been ordered in America. So, have this Government represented to the Government of India to open an emporium in America?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I am sorry I do not have the details as to what is being done with reference to the demand for our handloom cloth in America. Let the hon. Member put a separate question.

Sri A. M. RATHNASWAMY : Sir, certain officers were deputed by our Government to visit certain foreign markets. May I know what their reactions are after visiting those countries in regard to the sale of handloom cloth and whether there is any good prospect of capturing foreign markets?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that there is demand for our handloom cloth in other countries. Regarding other details, I would like to have notice.

Sri S. RAMALINGAM : *சமீபத்தில் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் வெளி நாடுகளில் சுற்றுப்பிரயாணம் செய்தபொழுது அங்கு நமது கைத்தறித் துணியை விற்பனை செய்வதற்கும், அதற்குத் தகுந்த மார்க்கட் கண்டு பிடிப்பதற்கும் வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தார்களா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.*

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : *இது விஷயமாக மத்திய சர்க்காரின் சார்பாக ஒரு உத்தியோகஸ்தர் வெளி நாடுகளுக்கு சமீபத்தில் போயிருக்கிறார். நான் என்னுடைய சுற்றுப்பிரயாணத்தின் பொழுது இதுபற்றி கவனிக்கவில்லை. கவனிக்கக்கூடிய சந்தர்ப்பமும் இல்லை.*

Renovation of temples

* 71 *Q.*—Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any improvement and repairs are being done to the ancient temples;

(*b*) whether the Commissioner for Religious Endowments has ever visited the historic temple at Singavaram, Gingee taluk; and

(*c*) the steps taken to improve and repair the Sri Ranganathar temple at Singavaram?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is presumed that the reference is to the Sri Ranganathar temple at Singavaram. The Commissioner had visited this temple on 1st December 1955.